



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED TO 10 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

TUCSON – Jesus Leon-Lopez, 41, of Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced on Monday, March 26 to 10 months in federal prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release, by Chief U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Leon-Lopez pleaded guilty on December 11, 2006, admitting illegal possession of a firearm by an illegal alien.

On September 4, 2006, a U.S. Parks Service agent had contact with Leon-Lopez as he rode a bicycle in the Organ Pipe Cactus Monument near Lukeville, Arizona. During this contact, two guns were located in Leon-Lopez's possession: a .357 caliber handgun which had a .38 caliber round of ammunition in the chamber, ready to fire, as well as a 9mm handgun. Leon-Lopez admitted to being an undocumented Mexican National, and as such, he is not allowed to possess firearms legally in the United States.

Leon-Lopez's prosecution is part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods, an illegal firearms enforcement program. The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by the U.S. Attorney. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, like the one in this case, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Parks Service, the United States Border Patrol, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

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